

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 EPG-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01
CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03
SCA-01 IO-13 /102 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/HR:MBOVA/AF/E:PGSMITH:JJ
APPROVED BY D/HA/HR:MSCHNEIDER
AF/E:RSPOST
AF/I:LSHURTLEFF
EB/IFD/ODF:FTHOMAS

-----111552Z 018088 /45

O 111524Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106868

ABIDJAN FOR AMBASSADOR STEVENSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, EFIN, MI, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: US VOTE ON IBRD LOAN TO MALAWI

1. A 7 MILLION DOLLAR BLANTYRE WATER SUPPLY LOAN IS AMONG
THOSE CASES SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE WORLD BANK
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON MAY 12. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD USE
ITS VOICE AND VOTE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITU-
TIONS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, AN INTERAGENCY MEETING
CHAired BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER MET ON MAY 6 TO
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DETERMINE WHAT POSITION THE U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD
TAKE AT THE MAY 12 MEETING WITH REGARD TO THE MALAWIAN AND
OTHER LOANS COMING UP AT THAT TIME.

2. IT WAS DECIDED AT THE INTERAGENCY GROUP MEETING THAT
THE U.S. SHOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE LOAN TO MALAWI, SINCE
EXTENSION OF SAFE WATER SUPPLY IN BLANTYRE WILL DIRECTLY

BENEFIT THE NEEDY. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN MALAWI IT WAS DECIDED THAT WE WOULD PRIVATELY INFORM BOTH THE IBRD DIRECTOR FOR MALAWI AND THE MALAWI GOVERNMENT THAT:

A. THE UNITED STATES VOTED ON MAY 12 IN FAVOR OF THE IDA WATER PROJECT LOAN FOR MALAWI BECAUSE THIS LOAN WILL

BENEFIT THE POOREST SEGMENT OF THE MALAWIAN POPULATION AND ADVANCE THE FULFILLMENT OF VITAL, BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AS DESCRIBED IN SECRETARY VANCE'S APRIL 30 ADDRESS.

B. OUR POSITIVE VOTE WAS CAST DESPITE OUR CONTINUED CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN MALAWI, PARTICULARLY THE ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION OF MALAWI CITIZENS, SOME OF WHOM BELONG TO DISSENTING RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT MANY DETAINEES ARE BEING RELEASED, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF THEM STILL REMAIN IN JAIL.

C. WE HOPE TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN MALAWI WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THAT COUNTRY FROM INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS.

3. SINCE WE DO NOT DESIRE UNNECESSARILY TO PREJUDICE CHANCES FOR USIS LIBRARIAN FUNSANI'S RELEASE ON KAMUZU DAY, EMBASSY LILONGWE MAY DELAY MAKING ITS DEMARCHE CONTAINING POINTS A-C ABOVE UNTIL WEEK OF MAY 16.
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4. IF IT IS JUDGED USEFUL, YOU MAY NOTE THAT MALAWI IS NOT BEING SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM. US WILL BE TAKING SIMILAR OR STRONGER ACTION WITH RESPECT TO A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IN THE CASE OF ONE AFRICAN COUNTRY (FYI: ETHIOPIA) WE HAVE JUST ABSTAINED ON TWO LOANS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS.

5. FOR ABIDJAN: AMBASSADOR STEVENSON: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS, INCLUDING YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY GOM REACTION AND CHANCES OF FAVORABLE IMPACT. DO YOU WISH TO MAKE REPRESENTATION YOURSELF, UPON RETURN TO LILONGWE, OR TO HAVE CHARGE DO SO? CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE106868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MBOVA/AF/E:PGSMITH:JJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-0098
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770569/aaaachho.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df713096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN DHA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2560516
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: US VOTE ON IBRD LOAN TO MALAWI
TAGS: SHUM, EFIN, MI, US, IBRD
To: LILONGWE ABIDJAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df713096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009